POPULATION
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1990 United Nations Population Award

United Nations

Anne Sauvy, left, represented her father, Alfred Sauvy, at the 1990 United Nations Population Award ceremony in New York. Dr. Satteeanund Peerthum, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, right, represented the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council.

ALFRED SAUVY, the noted French demographer, and the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council shared the 1990 United Nations Population Award on 21 June. The laureates received their awards—a diploma, a gold medal, and a monetary prize of US$ 12,500—at a ceremony in the United Nations Economic and Social Council chamber.

"Today I wish to pay tribute to an eminent demographer who has devoted his whole life to helping us understand the importance of key population issues, and a national Council that has demonstrated the impressive results that can be achieved when population awareness is combined with political will," Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar told the gathering of diplomats, academics, and representatives of international organizations.

Alfred Sauvy, a professor at the College de France, is the former Director of L'Institute Nationale des Etudes Demographique (INED, or National Institute for Demographic Studies). He was also a member of the United Nations Population Commission. The author of more than 40 books, he served as France's Secretary of State for the Family in 1946-47.

Since 1972, the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council's work led to a decline in the crude birth rate from well over 35 per thousand in 1965 to the current 20. The total fertility rate fell from more than 5 children per woman to less than two today, with more than 75 per cent of eligible couples using some form of modern contraceptive. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which selects the laureates, said these achievements were remarkable, given Mauritius' multi-ethnic population.

"It is for me both an honour and a deeply moving experience to be among you today to represent my father," said Anne Sauvy. "Despite his advanced years, he very much wanted to be able to come. I can assure you he is present here today in his thoughts." Professor Sauvy, 92, suffered a stroke in April.

"I would like to thank the United Nations Population Fund and Madame Nafis Sadik for the key role it plays in population work," Ms. Sauvy continued. "I thank the Committee . . . which has chosen to crown the work of my father with this award."

Dr. Satteeanund Peerthum, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, accepted the Award for the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council. "The Committee's Award for 1990 . . . is not only an honour to the population and Government of Mauritius but also a tribute to the achievements of two decades of co-operation with the UNFPA," he said. The Council was also represented at the ceremony by Dr. Boodhiman Radhakeesoon.

"The selection of the two laureates . . . offers a signal to the world that there are

(*continued on page 4*)

Katsuhide Kitatani named Population Fund Deputy Executive Director

SECRETARY-GENERAL Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has approved the appointment of Katsuhide Kitatani as UNFPA Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Administration, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General, effective 19 August.

Mr. Kitatani, from Japan, was born on 24 September 1931 in Tokyo. There he studied liberal arts, earning a Bachelor's degree at Tamagawa University and a Master's degree from St. Paul's University. He is married and has twin sons.

Mr. Kitatani joined the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) predecessor, as Administrative Officer in 1962. His assignments at UNDP headquarters have included: Chief of the Rates and Allowances Section; Senior Management Analyst; Chief of the Programme Support Unit; and Chief of Divisions I and II within the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. He was also Special Advisor to the Assistant Administrator of the same Bureau.

Mr. Kitatani was UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Indonesia in 1963-65 and in Pakistan in 1965-67. In 1986 he took up his most recent assignment, as United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNFPA Representative and UNDP Resident Representative in Myanmar. □

Namibia office, population programme starting up

UNFPA EXPECTS TO open a field office in Windhoek, capital city of Namibia, in September. The decision to station a Country Director, who will be assisted by national staff, comes as the population fund gears up to launch a multi-sectoral population assistance programme in the newly-independent country.

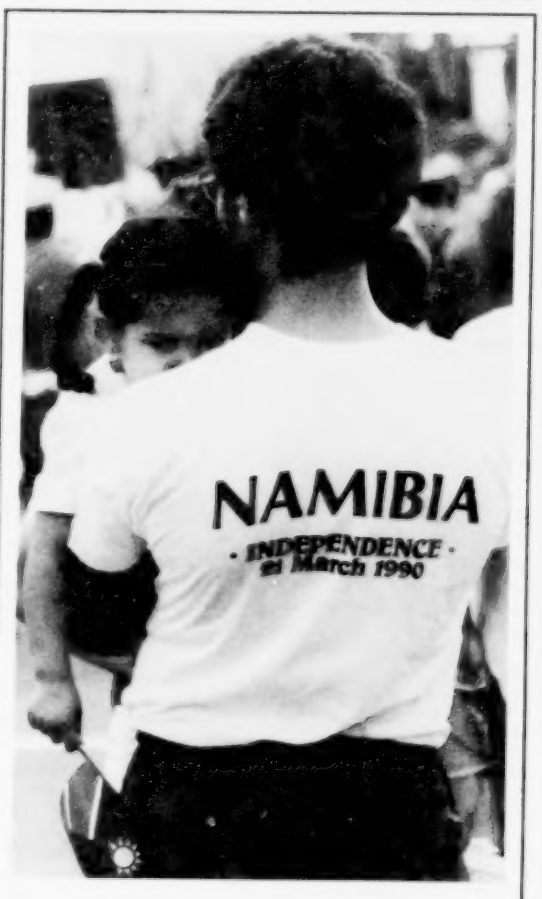
UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik told the 21-22 June Donors' Pledging Conference on Namibia in New York that the fund expects to provide US$ 3 million from its regular resources in 1990-93 as the preparatory phase of its assistance programme.

A successful population and housing census in 1991 is the first priority of UNFPA assistance. The Finnish Government has pledged US$ 1.5 million through UNFPA for the census, which is expected to devote special attention to disadvantaged groups and to gender-sensitive data.

UNFPA sent a multi-sectoral needs assessment mission to Namibia in April, as part of joint efforts by the United Nations system to assist Namibia in developing a co-ordinated technical assistance programme. Together with the Government, the mission helped to identify population needs in the United Nations' 160th member state.

Among the other areas requiring immediate action, Dr. Sadik told the donor conference, are maternal and child health and child spacing; women, population and development; information, education and communication support; vital statistics and civil registration; and demographic training.

Paying tribute to "the long-overdue independence of their heroic nation" and pledging UNFPA's "fullest commitment to working closely with the Government and people of Namibia," Dr. Sadik said she was "particularly pleased to note the human-centred approach on which the Namibia Reconstruction and Development Plan is based, emphasizing health, education, status of women, housing, poverty alleviation, and employment creation." □



At an Independence Day rally in Windhoek, Namibia. UNFPA is about to launch an office and programme of assistance in the newly-independent country. UN/J.Isaac

Maastricht Conference on Africa: averting a nightmare

REPRESENTATIVES OF 50 African countries, 25 donor countries, and 33 international organizations, meeting in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 2-4 July, reached broad agreement on a number of strategies for averting a "nightmare scenario" in Africa, in the words of Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Co-operation of the Netherlands.

Consensus-building on possible remedies for the economically ailing continent was the main purpose of the conference. The principles for recovery which gained wide acceptance included the urgency of reducing population growth, increased regional economic co-operation, and the need for greater external financing.

The nightmarish vision of Africa's future evoked by a 1983 Economic Commission for Africa report, *ECA and Africa's Development, 1983-2008*, predicted: a population explosion, the ensuing depletion of land and other physical resources, and the concomitant obliteration of essential social services such as education, health, and housing.

"Seven years have elapsed since that report was published," conference Co-Chairman Robert S. McNamara said. "What has happened in the intervening period? Put very bluntly, the situation has worsened."

The current population situation and prospects were detailed in written comments shared with conference participants by UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik. Rapid population growth, rapid urban growth, and continued poverty characterize African countries.

UNICEF/M. & E.Bernheim

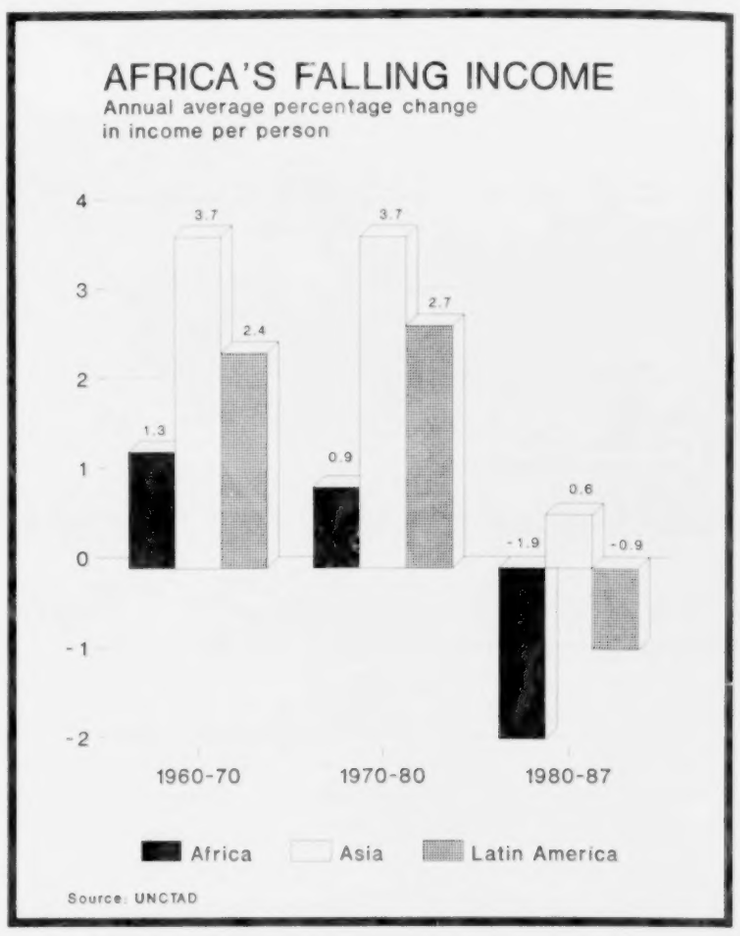
Reaching for papayas in Burkina Faso. Without slower population growth and dramatic increases in agriculture, 19 African countries will be unable to feed their populations from their own resources by the year 2000. Even now, chronic food insecurity besets one in four Africans, according to a UNFPA study.

The population of sub-Saharan Africa, now 500 million, is growing at 3.1 per cent per year, with the highest growth rates in the poorest countries. By the year 2000, 41 per cent of all Africans will live in cities. During the 1980s, the economies of most African countries grew hardly at all and many actually shrunk. Agricultural growth, at 1.5 per cent per year, has failed to keep up with population growth.

"No direct correlation between rapid population growth and slow economic growth has been demonstrated," Dr. Sadik wrote, "but it is noticeable that the developing countries which have been most successful economically are those with long-standing and effective programmes to limit population growth; conversely, among the least developed, there are none who have effective population programmes."

Among the main points of agreement at Maastricht, summarized in closing remarks by McNamara:

- African development initiatives must be endogenously designed and implemented, clearly defined, and recognize that development is going to take many years.
- Development must be human-centred.
- Population growth rates must be reduced, and the environment protected, to enable sustainable development.
- Restored production growth is essential.
- Regional economic co-operation and integration, however difficult, are key to economic and social recovery.



- Additional external financing, to complement required increased domestic savings, is critical. Efforts should include reducing substantially currently scheduled debt servicing.

The conference also favoured the setting up of a Global Coalition for Africa—a political grouping aimed at maintaining and reaffirming consensus on the main issues that affect Africa's development. The coalition could also support and monitor long-term national development plans.

McNamara said the sombre picture of African development nevertheless had some "bright spots." "During the decade, policy reforms have been adopted by an increasingly large number of countries and there are some early signs of economic recovery. Equally important, there is a new wind of political change blowing in many parts of Africa."

Echoing the sentiments of President Qett Masire of Botswana, McNamara added, "This is precisely the time when Africa needs, more than ever, external support—both financial and political." □

International Literacy Year—1990

World literacy and the gender gap

AT LEAST 960 million adults worldwide cannot read or write. Add the estimated 10-20 per cent of adults in the industrialized countries who are functionally illiterate—people who once were literate—and the world figure for illiteracy exceeds one billion adults. The majority of them, perhaps more than two-thirds, are women.

Globally, one woman in three is illiterate, as compared to one man in five. But in some countries, as many as eight women in 10 are illiterate.

UN/A.Jongen

A schoolgirl in Ecuador. Over 125 million children between the ages of six and eleven years are not enrolled in school. They are at risk of becoming the adult illiterates of the twenty-first century.

The gender gap in literacy rates is set to widen further, analysts say, as rising poverty and ailing economies increase the demand for women's unskilled labour, pushing literacy lower down the list of priorities of people and governments.

There is far more at stake in women's literacy than the ability to read and write. Preliminary findings from a questionnaire sent out in September 1988 by World YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) to its member associations show that women who receive literacy training get more respect at home and in the community. In turn, women are able to exercise more control over their own lives. And they are more able to receive and understand information on health, family planning, and other issues.

Women who can read and write can earn more because they are better equipped to search for jobs, including those traditionally reserved for men. They are more able to run small businesses and keep records on their own. Heightened political awareness, participation and organizational skills, give them a better understanding of their rights and make them more effective leaders of women's groups. Finally, mothers' level of education affects their children's health and progress in school.

In developing countries, women's participation in literacy classes is greater in rural areas. One reason for this is that they see literacy as a way of helping them to cope with responsibilities left behind by their menfolk who have migrated to the towns in search of work. Literacy also means being able to read their husbands' letters and write back without having to call in other people.

But few women manage to fulfill their desire to become literate. They are usually overwhelmed by time-consuming chores and duties, men's resistance, and shortcomings in the design of literacy programmes. Unless carefully managed, projects which integrate literacy into health care or income-generation programmes, for example, can impede literacy instruction by expecting women to get involved in numerous other activities.

This article was adapted from the July 1990 issue of UNESCO Courier. *For more information, contact: UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.* □

South Asia study on population policy and programmes

ATTEMPTS TO LOWER fertility and check population growth have stagnated at levels lower than hoped for in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. This, despite numerous achievements in population policies and programmes under formidable conditions since South Asian countries pioneered initiatives three decades ago.

In 1987 the four countries had an estimated 1.025 billion people. As the watershed year 2000 nears, India's population alone is on the brink of crossing the one billion mark. Population growth rates range from 2.1 per cent per year in India to 3.1 per cent in Pakistan. Fertility rates vary from 4.3 children per woman in India to around six children per Pakistani woman.

Finding ways to reinvigorate population activities in these countries was the focus of discussion at an 18-19 July inter-country workshop on the South Asia Study on Population Policy and Programmes. The Study, commissioned by UNFPA in 1988, was presented at the workshop in New York as four Country Monographs and a draft comparative Regional Overview Report. Research in the four countries was conducted entirely by local experts. This gives the reports greater legitimacy in the eyes of local governments and planners, analysts say.

Two main themes emerged from the Study: the need to target and fulfill the "unmet need" for family planing, estimates of which vary widely; and stimulating demand to reduce fertility, beyond meeting the existing unmet need.

The Study's main programme implications include making maternal and child health and family planning services more accessible; stimulating effective demand for services through education and by empowering women; and achieving a more effective contraceptive mix by steps such as better client counselling and immediate attention to side effects, particularly of reversible methods. This is considered key in countries where sterilization, heavily favoured by service providers, has been of limited demographic consequence.

"I am happy to note that, rather than producing another set of merely theoretical and academic research, the principal focus of the South Asia Study was to identify crucial programmatic issues in the countries under investigation, and glean lessons for actionable policy interventions in the relatively short-run time frame," said UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik, who opened the workshop.

The lively two-day workshop was attended by the Study researchers, representatives of the concerned governments, international organizations, and UNFPA field and headquarters staff.

Broad agreement was reached on the Study's main programme implications, as well as on the importance of contraceptive self-sufficiency; the need for more effective information, education, and communication (IEC) components; the advantages of closer co-operation between governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and a host of programme management issues. These included better training and supervision of field workers, improved service quality, and integrating health and family planning at the field level.

But there was also widespread concern over the extent to which overhauled programmes will be complemented by what one workshop participant called "a more supportive, less interventionist role by the donors," and by social policy adjustments.

The Bangladesh and Nepal monographs, for example, report that attempts by some donors to set the course of policy and programmes are considered unacceptably zealous by government.

Concern that donor investment was lagging despite the increased capacity of all four countries to absorb external assistance was matched by concern about a lack of co-ordination and sensitivity to national goals where assistance is forthcoming.

Some of the Study's findings will find their way into policy quickly. For example, the Study will factor into current deliberations on Bangladesh's next five-year plan, said workshop delegates from South Asia's most densely populated country. And recommendations for improved training reportedly have been incorporated into India's eighth five-year plan.

Workshop participants and observers welcomed these developments. As Moni Nag, Senior Associate at the Population Council and a consultant to the Study, put it: "There is sufficient scope for improvements in programme efforts, but nothing much will happen unless other things happen, such as strong efforts to reduce female illiteracy and to promote quality primary education."

UNFPA/Lily Solnissen

Contraceptives and other medications available at a family welfare centre in Karachi, Pakistan. South Asian countries need to improve their contraceptive mix, according to the South Asia Study.

But overall impact is likely to occur over the longer-term, for example as a result of follow-up national and regional seminars at which specific issues raised in the Study will be discussed and debated, said M. Badrud Duza, Co-ordinator of the Study in Bangladesh. Among others, these issues include age at marriage; delayed first pregnancy, child spacing, and women's health; the real and opportunity costs of children; and preference for sons.

It was agreed that not enough is known about the scope for replicating NGO activities on a wider scale and the impact of mass media and information activities. Some disappointment was expressed over the continuing lack of sufficient community participation in and effective political commitment to population issues.

Meanwhile, widespread dissemination of the four Country Monographs and a finalized Regional Overview Report, coupled with seminars at country and regional levels, is expected to add momentum to what many workshop participants and observers saw as a new frankness and determination on the part of policy makers and programme planners. □

World Development Report 1990

WITH NEARLY A quarter of the world's people living in absolute poverty, family planning services are vital to improving economic well-being, according to the World Bank's 13th annual report, released on 16 July in Washington and at United Nations headquarters in New York.

This is so especially in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa, where the 3 per cent to 4 per cent population growth rate depresses wages and increases poverty. Despite a projected annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 3.7 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa over the next decade, high fertility rates point to a rapid rise in the number of poor. Where strong family planning programmes have been implemented, the report says, birth rates and poverty have fallen sharply.

More than one billion people—nearly a quarter of the world's population—live in "absolute poverty," or on less than US$ 370 a year, according to the Bank. Poverty is most severe in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where about half the population is poor.

The Bank believes the number of absolute poor can be reduced by about 400 million world-wide over the next decade if developing countries adopt a two-part strategy. First, promoting the productive use of the poor's most abundant asset—their labour—to increase income-earning opportunities. Second, providing basic services to the poor, such as primary health care, family planning, nutrition, and primary education.

The *World Development Report 1990* predicts that most of the successes in curbing poverty in the next ten years will occur in Asia while in Latin America the number of poor is expected to remain the same. Sub-Saharan Africa could have as many as 100 million more poor people by the end of the century, unless it achieves a sustained annual GDP growth rate of at least 5.5 per cent, 2 per cent more than is projected for the continent.

For more information, contact: World Bank, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20433, USA. Telephone: (202) 477-1234. In New York, telephone: (212) 963-6008. □

Poverty in Latin America surveyed

POVERTY IN Latin America increased in the 1980s, affecting 183 million people, or 44 per cent of the region's population, according to *The Magnitude of Poverty in Latin America in the 1980s*, a report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Between 1980 and 1986, poverty affected one out of every six homes in Argentina and Uruguay. Two-thirds of Guatemalan homes, and 50 per cent of Peru's households, were found to be poor.

In 1970, 37 per cent of poor people lived in urban areas. By the end of the 1980s that figure rose to 57 per cent, but poverty is more extreme in the countryside.

"Poor" homes are those with incomes smaller than two times the cost of a basic food basket. "Extreme poverty" exists when a family's entire income fails to buy one basic food basket.

Research was conducted in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—countries that account for 85 per cent of the region's population, and about 90 per cent of its production. UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA collaborated in the study.

The report is currently available in Spanish only. For more information, contact: ECLAC, Edificio Naciones Unidas, Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile.

(IPS) □

AIDS information begins to have impact

AIDS INFORMATION campaigns are beginning to have an impact in Botswana and Zimbabwe, according to studies by Demographic and Health Surveys, a programme of the U.S.-based Institute for Resource Development. There is increasing awareness of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and its modes of transmission, but prevention lags behind.

These findings are of note for UNFPA's AIDS-related activities. Of the 49 countries in which UNFPA is working on AIDS, 43 have UNFPA-funded information and education campaigns, as compared with 26 countries where AIDS elements are being integrated into existing Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning programmes. Twenty-six African countries are co-operating in these activities.

Eighty-eight per cent of women in Botswana and 86 per cent in Zimbabwe have heard about AIDS. Sixty-six per cent of women in Botswana and 40 per cent in Zimbabwe know that having multiple sex partners increases the risk of contracting AIDS.

However, the survey results also suggest that many women continue to have misconceptions about the ways in which AIDS is transmitted. Among women who have heard of AIDS, 9 per cent in Botswana and 19 per cent in Zimbabwe said that casual contact with a person with AIDS is a mode of transmission.

Ninety per cent of the women interviewed said they believed (correctly) that there is no cure for AIDS.

To see if women were taking any preventive measures against AIDS, sexually active women in Zimbabwe were asked if they had taken any action to avoid contracting the disease. Only 13 per cent reported taking any preventive steps—usually staying with one partner. Less than one per cent reported using a condom to prevent AIDS.

Radio and print media are an important source of AIDS information in both countries. Eighty-four per cent of women in Botswana and 63 per cent in Zimbabwe had heard about AIDS on the radio; 55 per cent in Botswana and 64 per cent in Zimbabwe had seen an AIDS pamphlet or poster. Women in Zimbabwe were asked if they had received information about AIDS from a health worker; 51 per cent had, indicating that public health workers have been effective in increasing awareness of AIDS.

For more information, contact: Demographic and Health Surveys, Institute for Resource Development, 8850 Stanford Boulevard, Suite 4000, Columbia, MD 21045, USA. Telephone: (301) 290-2800. Telex: 87775. Telefax: (301) 290-2999. □

1990 United Nations Population Award

(continued from page 1)

shining examples which can serve as reference points in the process of creating a better future for the coming generations," said Committee chairperson Olga Pellicer, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations.

There were 13 nominations for this year's award, five individuals and eight organizations.

The Committee for the United Nations Population Award is made up of representatives of 10 member states elected by the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term. The current members are: Byelorussia, Ecuador, India, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Pakistan, Rwanda, Togo, and Turkey. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik serve as ex-officio members. Five eminent individuals serve as advisers for a renewable three-year term. The annual Award was first presented in 1983. □

NEWS IN BRIEF

AN INTERNATIONAL Conference on Aging Populations in the Context of the Family is scheduled for 15-18 October 1990, in Kyita Kushu, Japan. The conference, jointly sponsored by the United Nations Population Division, the Japan Aging Research Center, and the City of Kyita Kushu, will explore aspects of population aging and the evolution in patterns of family life. For more information, contact: the Office of the Director, United Nations Population Division, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, 2 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Telephone: (212) 963-3191. □

THE UNITED Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) concluded its 46th session by adopting a resolution on strengthening its population activities in the 1990s. The resolution urges countries to strengthen their support for ESCAP's population programme, and calls on donors to increase assistance to the developing countries of the region for population programmes.

The resolution, one of eight adopted at the Bangkok assembly in June, was sponsored by Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Tonga, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. The resolution also invites the region's countries to participate actively in the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in 1992, as well as the 1994 international meeting on population. For more information, contact: Population Division, United Nations ESCAP, Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. □

LIFE IS AN unending struggle for survival for some 500 million women who live in rural areas in developing countries. From morning to night they work in the fields, transport water and fuel wood, and feed and care for their families. This struggle, and women's attempts to achieve literacy and escape from poverty, exclusion and silence are the themes of *Inside the Third World: Rural Women Against Illiteracy*, a book to be published by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) in September. The author, Krystyna Chlebowska, is a UNESCO specialist in the education of women and girls. For more information, contact: UNESCO Press Sales Division, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France. □

COMPUTERS HAVE been extensively used in the population field for many years, for example in population census and statistical analysis. Mandated to produce a software inventory by the 1988 Asia-Pacific Population Information Network Consultative Workshop, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has produced the *Directory of Computerized Population Databases, Services, Products and Software in the Asia-Pacific Region—A preliminary version*. Funding to print the 98-page volume was provided by UNFPA. Its aim is to share experience and minimize redundant efforts in automation.

The *Directory* is based on a questionnaire sent by ESCAP to about 250 population institutions and libraries throughout the region. A comprehensive version of the *Directory* is being planned. For more information, contact: Population Information Section, Population Division, United Nations ESCAP, Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. □

THE PROCEEDINGS of the August 1989 Tokyo Symposium, "For the Survival of Mankind: Population, Environment and Development," have been published as a paperback of the same name. The Japanese version of the proceedings was published by the Mainichi Shimbun in Japan. The English version was edited and published at, and is available from, the Department of Population Planning and International Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2029, USA. Telephone: (313) 764-7516. □

TWENTY YEARS ago, forests covered half of Sri Lanka. But with 70 per cent of the island's energy needs provided by wood, only a quarter of Sri Lankan forests are still standing. Nearly five million cubic metres of firewood is used every year by the 17 million Sri Lankans—80 per cent for cooking. A wood shortage by 1995 is predicted for some parts of the country, and forests are expected to dwindle to one-thirtieth of Sri Lanka's area over the next 50 years.

Reforestation efforts are gaining pace, but the trees being planted will not be ready for harvest for eight to 10 years. That is why the National Fuelwood Conservation Programme has started a campaign to popularize fuel-efficient stoves. The stoves burn materials such as saw dust and briquets made of paddy husk. Some of the stoves have been in use for over a thousand years, others are experimental. (*Gemini News Service*) □

THE SOCIETY OF Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria is calling on the Nigerian Government to enact legislation that sets 18 years as the minimum age at marriage for girls. Nigeria's population policy currently recommends the minimum age as well as a maximum of four children per woman. The Nigerian obstetricians and gynaecologists hope that, armed with legislation, the policy will prevent potentially dangerous early motherhood. (*IPS*) □

Consultative group urges programme synchronization

IN A BID TO strengthen developing countries' co-ordination of external aid, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) is urging field offices of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme, and UNFPA to synchronize their programming cycles with the national planning cycles of respective host countries.

The request, based on General Assembly Resolution 44/211, is issued in a letter to field representatives signed by the deputy heads of the five funding agencies that make up the JCGP. Synchronization is also seen as a step towards the goal of establishing mutually supportive and complementary programmes of co-operation by harmonizing operations among the partner agencies.

The extent to which synchronization takes place will be determined by host governments, however.

Field offices are being asked to submit progress reports and plans of implementation on the results of this initiative by 1 October 1990. □

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